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Message from the Mayor

Last week, I announced a very important change in cash benefits for our city's neediest residents. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cash assistance for low-income families will increase by 7.5 percent effective July 1, 2006. Currently, the monthly TANF cash assistance benefit payment for a family of three is \$379. Effective July 1, 2006, the payment for a family of three will rise to \$407.

This increase is long overdue. With the District in strong financial shape we need to make sure that our residents who are most in need get increases in their cash assistance payments so that they can begin to rise above the poverty level and become self-sufficient through participation in the District's welfare to work programs.

We are strongly committed to helping TANF recipients find jobs, and the staff at the DC Department of Human Services (DHS) under Interim Director Kate Jesberg has done a great job carrying out the welfare to work mission.

By raising the TANF grant 7.5 percent, the District is working to get TANF cash assistance benefits to the level where they should be given the local economy.

The District's current TANF caseload of 15,614 households has reached its lowest level since the 1996 welfare reform law went into effect.

The monthly amount of TANF payments is based on family size. The more than 15,000 households in the District represent 45,000 people receiving TANF cash assistance benefits. With few exceptions, TANF recipients are expected to participate in employment programs and make progress finding meaningful jobs. The TANF payment for a family of three is \$379 and will increase to \$407 next month. The TANF payment for a family of three in Maryland is \$490, while the TANF payment for a family of three in Virginia is currently \$389.

The District has been recognized by the federal government as being outstanding in the administration of its welfare to work, Food Stamp, and reduction in out-of-wedlock birth programs. The federal government awarded the District 13 out of 14 bonuses totaling more than \$168 million. The DHS Income Maintenance Administration earned the federal bonus awards for the city based on outstanding performance and the District has used the money to assist poor and low-income District residents.

As I said, this increase in benefits for low-income residents is long overdue, and I am glad that we were able to make this adjustment in payments.



Mayor Appoints Members of HIV/AIDS Taskforce

One of the more serious health problems facing our city today is HIV/AIDS. I believe it is imperative for everyone in the District to come together collectively to tackle this problem. On Monday, June 26, I convened the first meeting of the HIV/AIDS Task Force made up of the District's most knowledgeable and concerned community representatives.

I established the HIV/AIDS Task Force because primarily, it will serve as a vital step in addressing the rising rates of new HIV infection in the District. Secondly, I wanted the coalition to include community members and organizations that have the experience, commitment, and expertise to analyze the situation and present a comprehensive list of recommendations for how we can give our residents relief from HIV. The Task Force includes individuals from all sectors of the community, including business, education, civic, medical, religious, government and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

District Joins Global Fight Against Fraud During National Fraud Awareness Week

With the recent discovery that 13,000 District employees may have their identities compromised because of a stolen ING-owned laptop, the Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking (DISB) has doubled its efforts in its continuing fight against fraud.

DISB has joined the worldwide effort spearheaded by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners—a global association of members in more than 100 countries dedicated to fighting fraud—as it supports National Fraud Awareness Week, July 9-14. This information-driven campaign is committed to increasing fraud awareness and promoting the fight against various types of fraud—whether it is insurance, security or banking fraud. According to a 2004 Report to the Nation on Occupational Fraud and Abuse, US entities lose more than \$600 billion annually to fraud and abuse.

DISB launched its local campaign with a proclamation to declare the fight against fraud by increasing consumer awareness and reducing risk. During the week, DISB will send out daily information and tips on different types of fraud, how to recognize fraud and how to fight against it.

District residents needing more information on Fraud Awareness Week or to report suspected fraud, should contact DISB at (202) 727-8000 or its Enforcement and Investigation Bureau at (202) 727-1563. Also, visit DISB's Web site at disb.dc.gov for more information on fighting fraud.

ING Laptop Theft: Equifax Enrollment Information Sessions Planned for Affected Employees

ING, the firm that offers District of Columbia employees a deferred compensation plan, will conduct information and registration seminars on credit protection at various DC government facilities over the next two weeks beginning Monday, July 10. The personal information of about 14,000 District of Columbia current and former employees was contained on an unprotected laptop computer stolen from the home of an employee of ING on or about June 12.

Anyone enrolled in the District's 457 Deferred Compensation Plan (DCPLUS), is strongly urged to take advantage of Equifax Credit Monitoring 3-in-1 Gold services being offered at ING's expense. Employees who attend the information meetings can register for those services on the spot. Pre-registration for the meetings is not required.

Seminar schedule for week of July 10, 2006:

Judiciary Square	441 4th Street N.W.	Council Chambers (North Side)	July 10, 2006	10 am 1 pm 3 pm 5 pm
Mental Health, Dept of Human Services Building	64 New York Avenue, N.E.	5 th FL Training Room	July 11, 2006	8 am 10 am 12 pm 2 pm 4 pm
Reeves Center	2000 14th Street, N.W.	2nd Floor Conference Room	July 12, 2006	3:30 pm 5:30 pm 7:30 pm
DC Armory	1901 D Street, S.E.	Training Room	July 13, 2006	10 am 1 pm 3 pm 5 pm
Logan Center (DCPS)	215 G Street, N.E.	Large Meeting Room	July 14, 2006	8 am 10 am 12 pm 2 pm 4 pm

Other locations and times for the week of July 17 will be announced next week. The complete schedule of meetings can be found at cfo.dc.gov, or by calling ING at 1-888-354-0800.



BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership
Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial
Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding
Alerts

Does Your Home Repair Project Require a Building Permit?

If heavy rains damaged your home, you may be considering critical repair work. While all structural and some nonstructural work require building permits, some home repair projects do not require a permit. Remember, whether you are making repairs on your own or you plan to hire a contractor, the owner is responsible for having a permit before work begins. Permits are required to ensure that work is done properly and safely and to prevent illegal construction. If you do not have the required permits, you could be fined.

Homeowners need building permits for:

- New construction
- Additions
- Demolition
- Retaining wall, fence, shed, garage or vault construction
- Signs or awnings

DCRA's **Homeowners Center** provides prompt and expert assistance to DC homeowners who need building permits for home improvement projects. It's a one-stop-shop for owners.

DCRA's Homeowners Center is located in Suite 2102 at 941 North Capitol Street, NE. It is open to the public 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and serves homeowners by appointment and by walk-in. To contact the Homeowners Center, call (202) 442-4400 or visit dcra.dc.gov. You can also e-mail homeowner@dc.gov.

For information about permit requirements, codes, plans, cost estimation, scheduling and more, read: *You Can Build It In DC!*, a self-help guide provided by the International Code Council® Foundation (ICCF) and DCRA to aid "do-it-yourselfers" with building projects.

Note: There is a fee for each permit – and an additional fee for any work in a public space.

District Partners with Maryland on Grants Training

I am proud to announce that on June 13 – 15, my Office of Partnerships and Grants Development (OPGD) and the Maryland Governor's Grants Office, in partnership with the Federal Government and Johns Hopkins University, hosted *Grants Made Easy: Post-Award Grants Management Training*.

The series—made up of both practical and informative presentations—was designed to better equip local government agency grants personnel to practice stronger grants management. Representatives of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, as well as law and consulting firms, made presentations on: federal administrative requirements and cost principles; sub-award procedures; federal audits; and federal grants law. All of the presentations are available on both OPGD's Internet (opgd.dc.gov) site.

Approximately 270 government professionals from Maryland and the District attended *Grants Made Easy*, with DC Public Schools and the Department of Health having the best overall attendance from District government. Participant response to the series has been overwhelmingly positive, and many individuals are already asking when it will be provided again.

I would like to thank the federal representatives and Johns Hopkins University for their assistance in providing this quality training and establishing this multi-sector partnership. I would also like to recognize all the instructors for making this event possible by providing their time and expertise. In addition, I would like to express my appreciation to the staff of the Maryland Governor's Grants Office for contributing countless hours to make this training a success.

Lastly, I would like to extend a special thanks to the staff of OPGD. Throughout my tenure as Mayor, I have created a variety of initiatives. However, this is the first time that the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia have partnered at this level to support our government and nonprofit sectors. I am very proud of OPGD for contributing to my legacy by organizing this historic event and continuing to build the capacity of District government grant managers to comply with federal grant policies and procedures. I know the city will benefit for years to come.

Congratulations and Thanks to Ruth Banks

On June 15, in a ceremony at the National Council for Negro Women Building, the Washington Bar Association inducted Ruth R. Banks, the Chairperson of the District's Rental Housing Commission, into its Hall of Fame. The Washington Bar Association is one of the oldest and largest African-American bar associations in the country. Founded in 1925, the same year as the National Bar Association (NBA), the Washington Bar Association is one of the NBA's largest affiliates. Mrs. Banks will be retiring June 30, 2006 as chairperson of the Rental Housing Commission.

We thank her for her service, and we wish her well.



District Activities



Mayor Williams inspects storm damage at Belmont Road, NW.



Mayor Williams convenes an HIV Task Force meeting and swears in new members who will spearhead improvements to the District's response to HIV/AIDS.



Mayor Williams signs legislation financing a new convention center hotel.

Community News

- [Mayor Signs Landmark Legislation Reforming City's Rent Control Laws and Financing a New Convention Center Hotel](#)
- [Office on Latino Affairs Announces New Literacy, Education Grant Opportunities](#)
- [Mayor Williams Introduces Emergency Legislation Empowering Fire Chief](#)

Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 7/8 | Free Workshop: How to Install Energy-Saving Measures in Your Home
10 am — 12 pm (every Saturday)
DC Energy Office
Reeves Center
Second Floor
2000 14th Street, NW |
| 7/10
-
7/15 | 5th Annual DC Hip Hop Theater Festival
Times and locations vary |
| 7/14 | 3rd Annual Sidewalk Housing Fair
11 am — 3 pm
801 North Capitol Street, NE |

